

prairies. Water seemed to be rather scarce, having met, during a journey of sixty miles into the interior, but four streams: but the natives have assured me that at the bottoms of the hills in the midst of the groves there are a good many brooks. So far as I have been into the interior I found the country hilly: I did not meet with marshy ground but at a single place, and that marsh was small. About fifty miles in the interior the prairies become smaller and woods take their place. The country through which I passed was thinly populated: the people have generally to stay on or near the Gaboon or Nazareth rivers or their tributaries. This want of population would be a drawback to colonization, as would also the want of a good harbor. The country near the Nazareth is better off in this respect."

November 24th, 1857.

Vice President BRIDGES in the Chair.

The Committees to whom were referred the following papers, reported in favor of publication, viz:

"Descriptions of some new Reptiles, collected by the U. S. Exploring Expedition under the command of Capt. C. Wilkes, U. S. N., by Chas. Girard."

"Notices of new genera and new species of marine and fresh-water Fishes, from Western North America, by Chas. Girard."

"Description of a new species of *Cypselus*, &c., by C. B. R. Kennerly."

The Committee on Col. Abert's "Description of a Mocking bird, supposed to be new," was discharged at its own request.

Descriptions of some new Reptiles, collected by the United States Exploring Expedition, under the command of Capt. Charles Wilkes, U. S. N.

FOURTH PART.—Including the species of *Saurians*, exotic to North America.

BY CHARLES GIRARD, M. D.

#### SCINCIDÆ.

1. *CRYPTOBLEPHARUS EXIMIUS*.—Scales disposed upon twenty-four longitudinal series, around the middle region of the body. Subcaudal scales equal or subequal. Back greenish; two light lines, or streaks, on each side; beneath unicolor.

*Locality*.—Feejee islands.

2. *EUPREPIS VENUSTUS*.—Body and head slender and depressed; tail subconical posteriorly. Forty-three to forty-five longitudinal series of scales. Pre-frontal plate lozenge-shaped. External row of preanal scales larger than the rest. Back chestnut brown; a black streak from the eye to the base of the tail, margined, superiorly, by a fuliginous line, extending from the supraciliary region to the anterior third of the tail, and, inferiorly, by a yellow line from the axilla to the groin; lower portion of the flanks yellow, speckled with black. Throat whitish; abdomen light brown, unicolor.

*Locality*.—Cape de Verde islands.

*CYCLODINA*, (nov. gen.)—Body elongated, slender, subquadrangular, depressed, covered with large scales, striated under the epidermis. Head small, depressed, anteriorly obtuse. Nostrils in one plate; no supranasals; a pair of parietals. Maxillary teeth conical; palate toothless. Tongue flat, scaly, nicked at the extremity. Lower eye-lid scaly. Auricular apertures simple. Limbs four, weak, far apart, five fingers and five toes, rather short, subcylindrical and clawed, their inferior aspect transversally plated, smooth; palms and soles coarsely granular or subtubercular. Tail moderate.

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3. *CYCLODINA Aenea*.—Body rather long, protected by twenty-six longitudinal series of scales. Snout short. Suborbital chain of plates complete: no labials entering into the orbit. Auricular aperture small. Two middle preanal scales larger than the rest. Limbs quite small. Golden green, back speckled with black; a dark chesnut or blackish streak along the upper portion of the flanks, obsoletely white lined above. Sides speckled with white and black. Under surface of head and throat speckled with black; abdomen light yellowish, unicolor.

*Locality*.—New Zealand.

*HOMBRONIA*, (nov. gen.)—Body subtetragonal and depressed, protected by moderate and striated scales; the two preanal ones larger than the rest. Head depressed, subtriangular; two parietal plates; an odd occipital, and two latero-occipitals. Nostril in one plate; no supranasals. Maxillary teeth subconical; palate toothless. Lower eyelid with a transparent disc. Auricular aperture simple; tympanum, rather deeply seated. Limbs weak, far apart; five fingers and five toes, unequal, with transverse, carinated plates beneath; palms and soles granular. Tail long, stoutish, subcylindrical, with subequal scales.

4. *HOMBRONIA UNDOSA*.—Twenty-eight longitudinal series of scales. Rostral plate elevated, subconical; nasals and postfrontals separated. Transparent disc of lower eyelid subcentral. Auricular aperture very small. Caudal scales much larger than the dorsal and abdominal ones. Tail long. Brown, sides with an obsolete, undulating streak of deep chestnut; beneath lighter, unicolor.

*Locality*.—New Zealand.

5. *HOMBRONIA FASCIOLARIS*.—Twenty-six longitudinal series of scales. Rostral plate low, hemi-discoid; nasals wide apart; postfrontals nearly contiguous. Transparent disc of lower eyelid subcentral. Auditive aperture very large. Caudal and dorsal scales subequal. Tail very long. Greenish olive; back speckled; upper part of sides with a dark streak; lower part and belly lineolated with greyish.

*Locality*.—New Zealand.

*OLIGOSOMA*, (nov. gen.)—Body subcylindrical, rather short, covered with moderate and striated scales; two middle dorsal series largest. Head subquadrangulo-pyramidal, depressed; nostrils lateral; no supranasal plates. Parietals separated. Palate toothless. Lower eyelid with a transparent disc. Auricular aperture subdenticulated in front, or simple; tympanum more or less sunk. Limbs moderately developed; five fingers and five toes, unequal; palms and soles finely granular; subdigital plates transverse, smooth. Tail long, subcylindrical and tapering.

*Mocia zelandica*, GRAY, is the type of this genus, to which also belongs *Scincus noctua*, of Lesson.

6. *LIPINIA VULCANIA*.—Dorsal scales disposed upon thirty longitudinal series. Prefrontal plates large, subquadrangular; postfrontals contiguous; supraoculars quite large; two slender, vertically elongated lorals. Temporal shields, scale-like. Brown, with a lateral darker streak; beneath unicolor.

*Locality*.—Caldera on Mindanoo.

*LYGOSOMELLA*, (nov. gen.)—Body depressed, elongated, covered with moderate and striated scales. Head subquadrangulo-pyramidal, depressed; nostrils lateral; no supranasal plates; parietals separated. Palate toothless. Lower eyelid with a transparent disc. Auricular aperture denticulated in front; tympanum deeply seated. Limbs small, far apart; five fingers and five toes, unequal; palms and soles finely tubercular; subdigital plates transverse, smooth. Tail moderate, subconical and tapering.

7. *LYGOSOMELLA AESTUOSA*.—Body rather long, protected by thirty-six longitudinal series of scales. Snout elongated; fifth upper labial entering into the orbit. Auricular aperture small, slightly denticulated in front. Preanal scales subequal. Olivaceous brown, with a pale streak along the upper portion of the

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flanks, margined with black. Dorsal region and sides somewhat speckled with black and white. Abdomen unicolor; throat and chin speckled with black.

*Locality*.—New Zealand.

EMOA (nov. gen.)—Body elongated, subfusiform, more or less depressed, covered with smooth, though substriated scales. Head subquadrangulo-pyramidal; a pair of supranasal plates; parietals united into one; middle occipital sometimes combined with the united parietals; a pair of postoccipitals. Maxillary teeth rather short and subconical; palate toothless. Lower eyelid with a transparent disc; auricular aperture denticulated or simple; tympanum deeply seated; limbs well developed; palms and soles granular; five fingers and five toes, compressed, unequal, clawed; subdigital plates numerous and smooth. Tail elongated and tapering.

8. EMOA NIGRITA.—Body stoutish, covered with thirty-eight longitudinal series of well developed scales. Postfrontal plates not contiguous; middle occipital distinct; auricular aperture moderate; subcircular and simple; preanal scales larger than the rest; tail subcylindrical, of moderate length; uniform brownish black above; lighter beneath.

*Locality*.—Navigator Islands.

#### GEKKOTIDAE.

9. GEHYRA VORAX.—Fingers and toes broad and rather short; dorsal scales small and uniform; abdominal scales subpyramidal in outline; brown or greyish brown above, maculated with black; beneath whitish, dotted with black.

*Localities*.—Feejee Islands.

10. PEROPUS NEGLECTUS.—Eye large; mental shields small and polygonal; tail laterally serrated; above brown with black markings; beneath unicolor.

*Locality*.—Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

11. DACTYLOPERUS INSULENSIS.—Scales along the middle region of the back smaller than on the sides; upper surface of head and tail granular; four mental shields, placed side by side; greyish brown above; minutely speckled with black; whitish beneath.

*Locality*.—Sandwich Islands.

12. DORYURA VULPECULA.—Head quite depressed and subacute anteriorly. Neck swollen. Back covered with minute equal granules, and tail with small scales. Four mental shields disposed upon a square, anteriorly contiguous to the labial plates. Tail tapering, nearly even laterally. Grey or yellowish brown, lighter beneath than above, and occasionally spread over with pale dots.

*Locality*.—Sandwich Islands.

13. HOPLDACTYLUS POMARI.—No mental shields, instead of which some very small plates. Abdominal scales very small, subcircular or subrhomboid. Upper regions of a dark reddish ground over which are arranged longitudinally elongated black blotches more or less confluent; beneath greyish, unicolor.

*Locality*.—New Zealand.

14. HETERONOTA PELAGICA.—Nostrils lateral, situated above the commissure between the rostral plate and the first labial. One pair of quadrangular, contiguous, internasal plates, and a small tubular post nasal. A pair of small mental shields. Eighteen longitudinal series of tubercles. Brown, maculated above with black; unicolor beneath.

*Localities*.—Feejee and Navigator Islands.

#### IGUANIDÆ.

SACCODEIRA, (nov. gen.)—Cephalic plates rather small, multicarinated. Nostrils lateral, placed immediately above the supraciliary crest. Temporal scales  
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carinated and imbricated. Auricular aperture denticulated in front. Sides of the neck, pouched, with small exteriorly and small granules within the pouches. A vertico-oblique fold in advance of the shoulder. Dorsal scales moderate, conspicuously carinated, acuminate, central dorsal series simulating a low crest. Abdominal scales smooth and entire. Femoral and preanal pores none. Tail broad at the base, compressed and tapering posteriorly. Fingers and toes, five, slender, unequal.

15. *SACCODEIRA ORNATISSIMA*.—Cephalic plates very small and nearly equal sized. Supralabials in one series, slender and smaller than the labials. Temporal scales quite small. Auricular aperture large. Scales subequal; dorsal and lateral ones subanceolated and carinated; abdominal ones posteriorly rounded. Posterior aspect of thighs minutely and wholly granular. Greyish brown above, with a double series of dark brown, subtriangular spots along the dorsal region. Limbs maculated. Upper surface of head blackish; sides and under surface whitish, with small jet black spots. Abdomen dull yellow, unicolor.

*Localities*.—Obrajillo and Yanga, Peru.

16. *PROCTOTRETUS SPLENDIDUS*.—*Proctotretus pectinatus*, BELL, Zool. Voy. Beagle, v, 1843, 18, Plate ix, fig. 2.—Labial plates narrow and long, somewhat larger than the supralabials, which are disposed upon two series. Temporal scales imbricated. Auricular aperture small. One series of infralabials, narrower than the lower labials. Three pairs of mental shields. Three pectinated crests, one along the dorsal line, and one on each side of the back. Emerald green above with five series of chestnut brown, black margined spots. The lateral pectinated crests bright yellow. Head transversally streaked with bright yellow. Sides and limbs variegated with brown upon a fawn yellow ground. Beneath white.

*Locality* —Patagonia.

*RHYTIDODEIRA*, (nov. gen.)—Cephalic plates rather well developed or moderate sized, not imbricated, smooth; one series of supralabials. Nostrils lateral. Temporal scales imbricated, smooth or subcarinated. Auricular aperture granular, tubercular or subdenticulated in front. Sides of the neck folded, granular; a vertico-oblique scapular fold. Dorsal scales rhomboid, carinated, acuminate; abdominal scales rhomboid also, smooth, generally entire posteriorly. Thighs either wholly granular or provided with a patch of scales near the tail. Coloration: Longitudinal streaks of various hues with intervening series of spots: occasionally, however, transversally banded.

*Observation*.—To this genus belong: 1. *Proctotretus kingii*, BELL; 2. *Proctotretus magellanicus*, HOMBR. & JACQ.; 3. *P. bibroni*, BELL; 4. *P. wiegmanni*, DUM. & BIBR.; 5. *Tropidurus nigromaculatus*, WIEGM.; 6. *Tropidurus oxycephalus*, WIEGM.

*EULAEMUS* (nov. gen.)—Cephalic plate moderate sized, else well developed, smooth; one series of supralabials. Nostrils lateral. Temporal scales subimbricated, subcarinated or smooth. Auricular apertures large, denticulated or tubercular in front. Sides of the neck folded and granular; a vertico-oblique scapular fold. Dorsal scales moderate, subrhomboid, slightly carinated. posteriorly obtuse; lateral scales rather smaller or subequal; abdominal scales rhomboid or rounded, and entire. Thighs wholly granular, else minutely scaly. Coloration: Transverse black or brown spots or bands, generally light margined, upon a rather dark ground; longitudinal streaks obsolete, if at all present.

*Observation*.—This genus embraces: 1. *Proctotretus tenuis*, DUM. & BIBR.; 2. *P. darwini*, BELL; 3. *P. pictus*, DUM. & BIBR.; 4. *P. fitzingerii*, DUM. & BIBR.; 5. *P. fitzingerii*, BELL. (*E. affinis*, GRD.); 6. *P. signifer*, DUM. & BIBR.; and 7. *Eulaemus maculatus*, GRAY.

*ORTHOLÆMUS* (nov. gen.)—Cephalic plates rather small, not imbricated, smooth; three or more series of supralabials. Nostrils superior. Temporal

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shields smooth, not imbricated. Auricular aperture moderate, simple. Sides of the neck ridged or rumpled, granular; a vertico-oblique fold in advance of the shoulder. Dorsal scales small, slightly carinated, posteriorly obtuse; lateral scales a good deal smaller, subgranular. Abdominal scales rhomboid or sub-lanceolated, entire or subfimbriated posteriorly. Thighs either wholly granular or with a patch of scales near the tail. Coloration: Dark spotted upon a light ground, and occasionally speckled also.

*Observation.*—*Proctotretus maculatus*, DUM. & BIBR.; and *P. wiegmanni*, BELL, (*O. fitzroii*, GRD.) belong to this genus, together with the following one.

17. *ORTHOLEMUS BEAGLII*.—*Proctotretus multimaculatus*, BELL, Zool. Voy. Beagle, v, 1843, 17, pl. ix, fig. 1.—Head short, depressed, wedge shaped. Snout rounded. Three series of supralabials, smaller than the labials. Lower labials larger than the upper labials; three series of infralabials. Seven or eight pairs of mental shields. Temporal scales small and subconvex. Auricular aperture moderate. Dorsal scales smaller than the abdominal ones, which are subrhomboid, rather acuminate and subfimbriated. Upper part of flanks subgranular. Posterior aspect of thighs granular with a patch of scales near the tail. Olive brown above, maculated with black; a jet black humeral spot; beneath whitish yellow, unicolor.

18. *AMPHIBOLURUS MACULIFERUS*.—A diminutive scaly ridge along the middle line of the back. Sides of the hind part of the head spineless. Scales of the throat, abdomen and inferior surface of the limbs obsoletely carinated, those of the throat not hanging down, sides of the body with some short and erect scales. Tail without cross rows of spines above. Yellowish, with transverse blackish bands on the back, limbs and tail; belly and tail beneath unicolor, throat and limbs dark speckled.

*Locality.*—New South Wales, Australia.

*OREODEIRA* (nov. gen.).—Head depressed, rather broad and short, covered with small subtuberculous and subimbricated plates. Occipital plate rather large. Nostrils lateral, situated within the extension of the supraciliary ridge along the snout. Supralabial plates and temporal scales carinated. Tongue fleshy, anteriorly notched or bifid. Compressed and cutting teeth on the sides of the jaws and subconical incisors anteriorly. Auricular aperture moderate, subserrated; tympanum situated near its surface. A gular and a pectoral cross fold; sides of the neck variously folded or rumpled. Nape with a small crest vanishing away along the back. Scales on the back moderate, homogeneous, keeled, disposed upon oblique series; on the abdomen, small, subequal and keeled also; on the occiput and neck very small, subgranular. Limbs slender and elongated, terminated by five fingers and five toes, slender, compressed, unequal, clawed. Tail slender, subconical, and tapering. Femoral and preanal pores wanting.

*Observation.*—This genus belongs to the group of Phrynocephali, and as far as we know, is the only one found in Australia.

19. *OREODEIRA GRACILIPES*.—Three complete series of supralabials, smaller than the labials; infralabials constituting likewise three series. Mental shields quite small, scarcely distinguishable from the infralabials. Posterior aspect of thighs, scaly. Caudal scales conspicuously larger than the dorsal and abdominal ones. Brownish olive above, anteriorly maculated; beneath yellowish-olive; chin obsoletely spotted.

*Locality.*—New South Wales, Australia.